

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT
Livestock Slaughter
Louisiana Meat Animal Summary
Average Prices Received by Farmers
Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 1.3 million pounds, down 7 percent from February and the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, down 300 head from February and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 933 pounds, up 63 pounds from the previous month and 36 pounds above March 2002. Total live weight, at 1.02 million pounds, was 14 percent below the previous month and 15 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 800 head, up 200 head from February and 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 489 pounds, down 21 pounds from February and 4 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight at 389,000 pounds was up 22 percent from February and 13 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 2,200 head, down 500 head from February and 600 head below March 2002. Average live weight was 237 pounds, up 16 pounds from February and 26 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 511,000 pounds, down 13 percent from February and 12 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 200 head, down 100 head from February and the previous year. Live weight averaged 107 pounds, up 1 pound from the previous month but 3 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.70 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 3.68 billion pounds produced in March 2002.

March 2002 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

March 2003 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, up 1 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 1,234 pounds, down 7 pounds from March a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.5 million pounds, 10 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 85,100 head, up 10 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 323 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.15 million head, 2 percent above March 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, up 1 pound from March a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2002, a new record low for March. Sheep slaughter totaled 264,100 head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from March a year ago.

January-March red meat production was 11.3 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was up 8 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 15 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March			January-March	March		January-March	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.4	1.3	1.1	4.2	3.8	2,737.7	2,770.2	8,410.3	8,346.9
Calves	0.6	0.7	0.8	2.2	2.3	77.4	85.1	238.3	261.9
Hogs	2.7	2.8	2.2	7.9	6.9	7,986.5	8,152.1	24,148.3	24,619.9
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.6	324.3	264.1	840.2	727.1
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	1,184	1,201	1,021	3,770	3,374	3,397,480	3,417,508	10,531,447	10,471,834
Calves	320	343	389	1,079	1,152	25,062	27,464	77,040	83,527
Hogs	588	582	511	1,736	1,504	2,132,885	2,181,874	6,450,201	6,582,746
Sheep & Lambs	31	28	25	86	64	44,622	36,411	115,856	98,139
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	870	897	933	898	888	1,241	1,234	1,252	1,255
Calves	510	493	489	490	501	324	323	324	319
Hogs	221	211	237	220	218	267	268	267	267
Sheep & Lambs	106	110	107	108	107	138	138	138	135
-----Million pounds-----									
Red meat	1.4	1.4	1.3	4.4	4.0	3,677.7	3,701.5	11,260.8	11,273.5

Louisiana Meat Animal Production, Disposition and Income

Cattle and Calves

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 Pounds		Value of Production	Cash Receipts ³	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
			Cattle	Calves				
	-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----		-----Thousand dollars-----			
1999	235,819	238,080	45.50	82.20	152,067	152,543	760	153,303
2000	232,146	258,720	51.60	98.50	178,362	193,381	907	194,288
2001	229,265	234,360	53.80	97.90	174,618	177,947	938	178,885
2002	236,853	231,020	49.00	88.00	160,466	157,153	861	158,014

¹Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

²Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the state.

³Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

Hogs and Pigs

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price per 100 Pounds		Value of Production ³	Cash Receipts ⁴	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
	-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----		-----Thousand dollars-----			
1999	9,062	9,030	25.10		2,259	2,267	52	2,319
2000	8,038	8,200	35.10		2,810	2,878	71	2,949
2001	9,610	9,660	36.50		3,495	3,526	77	3,603
2002	7,232	7,790	26.20		1,872	2,041	53	2,094

¹Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

²Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the state.

³Includes allowance for higher average price of state inshipment and outshipment of feeder pigs.

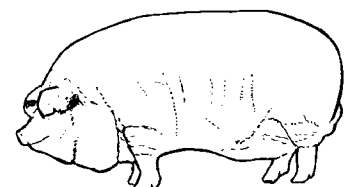
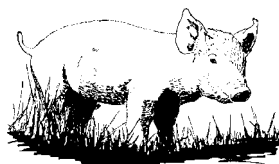
⁴Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

Louisiana Meat Animal Income Up

Cash receipts from meat animals in Louisiana during 2002 totaled \$159.2 million, down 12 percent from the previous year. Cattle and calves made up 98.7 percent of these receipts, while hogs and pigs account for 1.3 percent.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from cattle and calves totaled \$157.2 million, down 12 percent from 2001. Marketings, at 231.0 million pounds, were 1 percent below the 2001 figure. Cattle prices averaged \$49.00 per cwt, down \$4.80 from 2001, while calves averaged \$88.00 per cwt, \$9.90 below the previous year.

Hogs and Pigs: The 2002 cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaled \$2.04 million, down 42 percent from 2001. Marketings decreased to 7.79 million pounds, a 19 percent decrease from the previous year. The average price received was \$26.20 per cwt, down \$10.30 from 2001.



Prices Received Index Up

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April was 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 2.0 percent from the March index. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, onions and soybeans more than offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat and hogs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, cattle, oranges and milk offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 7.4 percent from April, 2002. Higher prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and broilers more than offset lower prices for potatoes, dry beans, celery, and lemons. The Food Commodities Index increased 3.1 percent above last month to 99, 6.4 percent above April last year.

Prices Paid Index Up 1 Percent

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates, was 128 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 1.0 percent from March and 4.1 percent above April 2002. Higher prices in April for feeder cattle, self-propelled machinery, hay and forages, and feed grains more than offset lower prices for diesel fuel, complete feeds, milk cows and feeder pigs.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April	March	April	April	March	April
	2002	2003	2003 ¹	2002	2003	2003 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.45	2/	2/	4.47	5.60	5.90
Rice, per cwt	4.04	4.06	4.40	3.94	4.14	4.22
Upland Cotton, per pound	.240	.463	3/ .445	.272	.473	3/ .450
Hay - all, baled, per ton	N/A	N/A	N/A	98.30	92.80	94.50
Beef Cattle, per cwt	50.80	48.10	49.00	67.30	72.70	75.00
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	74.70	74.30	76.00	70.60	76.70	79.30
Cows, per cwt	41.00	37.90	38.00	40.10	39.50	40.10
Calves, per cwt	91.00	88.80	89.00	101.00	97.00	99.10
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.280	.330	.310
Eggs - All, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.522	.687	.690
Milk -All, per cwt ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.50	11.00	10.90

¹Mid-month

²Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³Based on sales during the first half of the month

⁴Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies

N/A = Not Available

The Louisiana Farm Reporter (ISSN-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (Twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Periodicals postage is paid in Baton Rouge, LA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038.

Internet Access:

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